Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

February 18, 2016

Susan Maxwell

Waterbury, CT

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Susan Maxwell and I am a registered voter in Waterbury, CT.

I am here to testify on H.B. No. 5044 An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

I am opposed to any cuts to mental health services and supports.

With the supports I've received through the years, I have come a long way in my recovery. I haven't been hospitalized in over nine years because of the supports I receive from the Independence Center. I work part-time, am a leadership council member at the Independence Center and live a fulfilling life despite my disability.

If we didn't have the services provided-Including Mental Health Connecticut's Independence Center, The Regional Mental Health Board, and Connecticut Legal Right's Project, many mental health consumers would not have the services needed to recover.

It seems like the elderly and the disabled are the first to get cut in the budget. Mental health has come a long way, with our providers and our doctors, and with the right medication, we can be on the right path to our recovery.

It would be detrimental to thousands of people who live independently in the community if you cut funding. Please consider the lives that would be negatively affected .

Thank you for your time.

Susan Maxwell